

National Republican

W. J. MURTAUGH, Editor and Proprietor.

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All communications, whether on business or for publication, should be addressed to W. J. MURTAUGH, Proprietor, NATIONAL REPUBLICAN, Washington, D. C.

THE REPUBLICAN HAS A LAROE CIRCULATION THAN ANY OTHER MORNING PAPER IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

THURSDAY MORNING.....DEC. 25, 1873.

"No paper will be issued from this office to-morrow.

DISTRICT SECURITIES.

Gov. Shepherd returned from New York last night, having deposited in that city the amount of money required to meet the interest due upon the District securities on the 1st of January. Information to this effect has already been cabled to Frankfort.

The amount to be paid is \$300,000. The Governor thus answers the base slanders which have been circulated regarding the resources of the District government in a most satisfactory and efficient manner. His promises that the Government of the District should not default in its securities have been faithfully kept.

This gratifying announcement will be accepted as a further guarantee of the solidity of the present government of the District, and as a most thorough enforcement of the confidence which the overwhelming majority of our citizens repose in its administration.

On this Christmas morning no more satisfactory gift could be offered. In the train of results which will assuredly follow, will be the appreciation of our bonds and the consequent alleviation of a distress which has indirectly affected almost every class of the community.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

The oldest, the grandest, and sweetest holiday of the year comes again this morning, as precious in its memories, as rich in tradition, as significant in teaching, as dear to all who bear the Christian name as it was to the generations that went before and after, and to the generations backward and backward along the pathway of the centuries since its birth. There is no day like Christmas. It belongs to all ages, all countries, and all peoples. It has outgrown everything of human origin since it came into existence. It has seen empires rise and fall. It was hoary with age when the Puritan fathers saw Plymouth rock. It was gray with time-frost when this Western world was a wilderness. The garlands of centuries decked it when the Norman William conquered the Saxon Harold. But it has outlived them all—kings and emperors and empires. They have all passed away; left the record of their good and evil; did their work as it came to them to do; but the Christians—in which they rejoiced, which brought them as it brings to us so many softening influences, so much love and charity and tenderness, remains grander and higher than all, teaching its old-time lesson, pointing to the cradle at Bethlehem, and preaching Christianity's first great precept of peace on earth to men of good will.

The event which it commemorates is the greatest in history. As we look back to it with reverence and awe, so the world for thousands and thousands of years had looked forward to its coming with a tremendous expectation. The promise that it would certainly come was as old as time itself. It was the rainbow of hope that spanned the heavens, as generation followed generation. We know that modern skeptics sneer at this; that we are told the Babe of Bethlehem was only human. His life has been written from the standard of common humanity; His doctrines have been analyzed; and daring disbeliefs have not hesitated to institute comparisons and assign to the predestined One what they deem to be His proper place among the great men who have from time to time cast their genius over the world. Christianity has been called a mere system of philosophy, and the Saviour a mere philosopher, as Plato and Socrates and Confucius were philosophers. This is to a great extent the sentiment of the time, the coloring of the age. But in this, as in other things of less importance, history is merely repeating itself. There were doubts and disbeliefs in the beginning, and there will be doubts and disbeliefs in the end. No argument can explain away the great truths of Christianity; can succeed in impressing upon the world that what it has so long believed to be divine is only human, and cerebral, to pass away, as all else has passed away; the simple preparation for something higher and nobler and better, a mere stepping-stone in the great march of progress, the development of humanity. All attempts to blot out the day, to make us love and venerate it the less, have failed. Time only adds fresh honors to it; makes its observance more a matter of faith and of duty.

No other day in all the year brings the world in so close a communion. It belongs to every age and every class; to the rich and to the poor; to the old and the young. As the year glide on and on it more distinctively marks what it was intended it should mark, a season of universal gladness and joy; when enmities should be laid aside; when care should be forgotten; when the people should send up hymns and harmonies, rejoicing at what has been and what may be accomplished. The grand old day comes to us fragrant and beautiful, counseling love, and courage, and faith, and hope, and charity. And we are all the better for its coming. Upon every continent, every race and people in imagination go back this morning to the humble little town in Nazareth; recall the story of the Eastern kings and the Chaldean shepherds and the tremendous events which trace their origin to the event which took place; and as the evident plan and purpose of the whole mighty scheme is unfolded it cannot but lead all who think upon it higher and higher up to that plain upon which we all expect some day to stand. The lesson of the hour is a lesson of love and beneficence. Let us see that we learn it, and in learning and accepting it win what shall be forever a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

THE STATUS OF THE VIRGINIANS.

Such misapprehension exists regarding the results which may ensue from Attorney General Williams' opinion relative to the status of the Virginians, that a further explanation is deemed necessary.

The laws of the United States provide for the registration of American vessels under regulations of the Treasury Department, and for the punishment of any violation of such regulations. The act of Congress of 1868, referred to by the Attorney General, is especially applicable to the case of the Virginians, as they are subject to forfeiture whenever their registration under those

regulations as an American vessel may have been falsely or fraudulently obtained. It requires but a slight investigation to determine, in view of this latter law, that the Virginians, while carrying the American flag under a registration which was prima facie American, was amenable to punishment for any violation of those regulations. The natural consequence of this assumption is that she should only be tried for such violation by the courts of the United States. The process incident to such a trial will place her under the control of the Treasury Department, which is charged with the execution of the violated law. The next appearance of the famous filibuster ship will be in the control of the Navy Department, which has brought her to New York will be in the control of the Collector of that port. His duty will be to libel her for forfeiture before the United States Court for the Eastern District of New York. If it is then proven, as it no doubt will be, that she has violated any law, he will be furnished to the United States as the property of the Government, and probably be sold to the highest bidder by the United States Marshals.

All these acts were held constantly in view by the Government during the progress of the negotiations, which resulted in her surrender. At no time was the right of search admitted, and at all times the jurisdiction of the United States over vessels carrying the American flag, either legally or illegally, was maintained. While the Spanish Government may have asserted a claim, based upon positive knowledge of the trait which had been practiced upon our customs or consular officers, our Government undeniably maintained that the *prima facie* evidence was sufficient to sustain our demand for her surrender. As we have said before, the strength of our diplomatic policy was demonstrated by the success which attended our efforts in compelling an acknowledgment of our jurisdiction over the case. But now that the surrender has been effected and the vessel is in the custody of the United States, other questions may arise under the arbitration clause of the Pola-Flo protocol, involving issues which are the indirect outgrowth of that success. None of them, however, will include the possibility of a release of the vessel by the United States. Spain has definitely agreed to our authority to adjudicate such violations of our law as may have occurred, and the new phases that may arise will relate to other questions than the status of the Virginians. She has, or soon will have, disappeared from view as an incident of the differences which exist between the two nations.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the stockholders of the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad Company took place at Petersburg, Va., last week, when the president, Gen. Wm. Mahone, made his annual report. The gross revenue for the year was stated a \$1,162,176.39, and expenses \$814,035.15. In 1865-66 the gross revenue was only \$1,054,356.10, and current expenses \$165,169.52, leaving an excess revenue only \$201,186.88. The net income for 1865-66 was \$1,058.6 of \$1,159,409.58 gross revenue, or 9.9 per cent., and \$802,945.58 increase of net revenue, or over 74 per cent. They have already realized over a million in bank!!

SUCCESS ASSURED!

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TUESDAY, JUN 4th OF MARCH NEXT.

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FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE

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SEASIDE CAPS, GAUNTLETS AND MU-

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FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

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EXHIBITION.

FINE PAINTINGS—On Porcelain; Choice Sub-

jects richly framed.

Hair Brooches, Pins and Bouquet Comb, Valentine Pictures, Photographs, Toilet and Dresser Sets, &c.

Attractive Pictures of various subjects.

Choice Pictures of various subjects.

PICTURE FRAMES.

THE LADY'S VESTMENT, 200 SEV-EN STREET, IN ALL

GILT, ENAMELED SILK, VELVET AND GILT,

WITH GOLD TRIMMINGS, EXQUISITE.

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EXQUISITE.

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150 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 200, deep-2d.

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